

August 1, 2013

Dear Authorized Representative/Food Service Director:

Welcome Back! With July behind us, the carefree summer days are coming to an end. August brings the excitement of starting a new school year and preparing for the students.

Keep in mind as you ready yourself and your staff, that the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Service is here to assist you in program operations whether it be providing guidance on a recent meal pattern regulations or how to access the CNP2000 system to submit a claim. If you have a question or desire assistance please contact your area consultant or me and we will work together to make your program the best it can be.

Attached to this email are USDA memos that provide an update on the School Breakfast Meal Pattern and clarification on implementation in FY14, Offer versus Serve, frozen fruit products in FY14 and Head Start policy consolidation.

Please review the attachments and the information below and take the necessary action. The attached documents that are identified as SP XX-20XX are USDA memos that provide an update on regulations and must be reviewed to ensure you are operating according to regulations. This information is emailed to the Authorized Representative and Food Service Director for your School Food Authority (SFA). The Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services facsimile number is 515-242-5988.

Please contact me if you desire additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,  
Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant

#### **FY14 – Resources**

##### **♦School Year Calendar**

Highlighted on the calendar are the dates a variety of functions occur and when reports are due.

**♦ICAVES** – The Verification tab of the ICAVES Tool has been updated for functionality. This part of ICAVES will assist the SFA in identifying the Verification method that is required to be used.

##### **♦Attestation Statement FY14**

SFAs that were certified (submitted documents demonstrating compliance with the meal pattern/nutrition standards that became effective on July 1, 2012) in FY13 will remain certified in FY14 but a **FY14 Attestation Statement must be attached to the FY14 SFA application via the CNP 2000 system.** Attached to this email is the form and the steps to attach the Attestation Statement to the SFA application.

#### **FY14 – Training Opportunity**

Breakfast Offer vs. Serve: learn more about how to implement offer vs. serve with the new breakfast requirements.

Dates: Wednesday, Sept 4, 2pm to 3:30pm; Thursday, Sept 5, 2pm to 3:30pm; Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2pm to 3:30pm.

The information presented will include the breakfast meal pattern and new information on Offer vs. Serve. Due to limited registration capacity, please limit the registration to no more than two per district in order to provide space for all districts and nonpublic schools to register for the webinar. Save the date on your calendar now and information on how to register for this webinar will come later.

### **Participation of Head Start: Questions and Answers Regarding the Programs in Child Nutrition Programs - SP 40-2013, CACFP 11-2013, SFSP 13-2013**

The purpose of this memorandum is to consolidate our policy regarding the participation of Head Start Programs in the Child Nutrition Programs. For more information about the Head Start Program and Early Head Start Program, please see the Office of Head Start's website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/>.

### **Questions & Answers on the School Breakfast Program Meal Pattern in School Year 2013-2014 SP 28-2013 (v.2)**

Attached are Questions & Answers (QAs) on the final rule to update the meal patterns and nutrition requirements for meals offered under the School Breakfast Program (SBP), as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. As the breakfast meal pattern requirements are being phased-in over multiple years, this memorandum also provides a brief overview of the breakfast meal pattern for School Year (SY) 2013-2014 *only*. This memorandum has been revised to reflect consistency with the additional flexibility described in the Offer versus Serve guidance.

### **Offer versus Serve (OVS) - SP 45-2013 Updated Offer versus Serve Guidance for the National School Lunch Program and School and Breakfast Program in School Year 2013-2014**

Offer versus Serve (OVS) is a provision in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) that allows students to decline some of the food offered. The goals of OVS are to reduce food waste in the school meals programs while permitting students to decline foods they do not intend to eat.

Attached is the updated guidance manual for operators utilizing OVS, which is optional at all grade levels for breakfast and available at all grade levels but required at the senior high school level for lunch. As parts of the NSLP and SBP meal pattern requirements are being phased-in over multiple years, this memorandum provides guidance for School Year (SY) 2013-2014 *only*. The guidance will be revised as needed to reflect new requirements as they are phased-in.

This guidance is intended to clarify the requirements of OVS, specifically related to what students must take in order to have a reimbursable meal.

### **Frozen Fruit Products in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs in School Year 2014-2015 - SP 49-2013**

This memorandum extends the provisions to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) set forth in SP 20-2012, published on September 11, 2012. Therefore, schools may continue to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the NSLP and SBP through SY 2014-2015 (June 30, 2015). This exemption applies to products acquired through USDA Foods as well as those purchased commercially. Read memo for detailed information.

### **Upcoming Team Nutrition Activities:**

- ***Save the Date - Produce Safety Webinar, September 18<sup>th</sup>*** 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Do you want to increase the fresh produce provided through your school meals program? Join a one-hour webinar to learn how to purchase, receive, store, prepare, and serve fresh produce and see how Iowa schools are incorporating fresh produce into their school meals.
- ***Save the Date - Comfortable Cafeteria Webinar on October 2<sup>nd</sup>***, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Dayle Hayes will describe how to provide an atmosphere that encourages students to select healthy foods choices and offer tips on how to get students to eat them, while implementing the new meal patterns. Foodservice staff, as well as administrators, teachers, parents, wellness team members, etc., are encouraged to attend as support for the implementation of the new meal patterns throughout the school community.
- **Parent Campaign Mailing** – Watch for a mailing prior to school starting of 2 posters and sets of informational cards to handout of “*It’s not **just** school lunch. It’s bigger than that.*” campaign materials. Distribute the cards to parents at back to school night, at registration, etc. to market school meals!
- The **Iowa Gold Star Breakfast Menu** meeting the new meal pattern is posted at [http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2162&Itemid=2962](http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2162&Itemid=2962). A revised Iowa Gold Star cycle lunch menu will be coming soon.
- Contact Patti Delger , **Team Nutrition Co-Director** at 515-281-5676 or [patti.delger@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.delger@iowa.gov).